

pectoral fin base with cycloid scales, other part of head naked. Sensory canals and pores present on head; longitudinal pattern of sensory-papillae rows on cheek; a pair of short sensory papillae just behind chin. Head and body pale grayish brown, very bold dark line proceeding from posterior portion of eyes along sensory pore path to first dorsal origin and a dark stripe connecting both the eyes anteriorly.

Ecology: Found on coral rubble areas at the depth of 2 m.

Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean and Indonesia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for facilities and funds provided to carry the

faunistic survey and Dr. C. Raghunathan, Officer-in-Charge, Zoological Survey of India, National Coral Reef Research Institute, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair for the facilities and encouragement to conduct this work. Thanks are also due to Chief Wildlife Warden, Port Blair and District Forest Officer, ACF and Range Officer, Havelock, for their permission and help in surveying this protected area. The valuable help and excellent co-operation extended by G. Ponnuswamy, Photographer, and A. Polycap, Collection Tender, are also gratefully acknowledged. We are grateful to Dr. O. Murdey, Programme Manager, Division of International Programme, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., who assisted by sharing his knowledge.

REFERENCES

- BLYTH, E. (1846): Notes on the fauna of Nicobar Islands. *J. Asiat. Soc. Ben:* 367-379.
- BLYTH, E. (1863): The Zoology of Andaman Islands. Appendix to Moutat's Adventure and Researches among the Andaman Island. Pp. 345-367.
- BOHLKE, J.E. & C.R. ROBINS (1968): Western Atlantic seven-spined gobies, with descriptions of ten new species and a new genus, and comments on Pacific relatives. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 120: 45-174.
- DAY, F. (1875): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon & Burma, Taylor and Francis, London. Text and atlas in 4 parts. London xx+778 pp., 195 pls.
- DAY, F. (1889): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma, Fishes. I, 548, pp., II, 509 pp. Taylor and Francis, London.
- HORA, S.L. (1934): The systematic position of Hamilton's species of gobioid fishes from the Ganges. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 13(3): 205-329.
- RAO, D.V. (2009): Checklist of fishes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Environment & Ecology* 27(1A): 334-353.

10. A REPORT ON THE MIGRATION OF THE BUTTERFLY *PHALANTA ALCIPPE* (NYMPHALIDAE) IN THE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

MUHAMED JAFER PALOT¹

¹Western Ghat Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode 673 006, Kerala, India. Email: palot.zsi@gmail.com

The butterfly fauna of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has not received much attention. Although more than 150 species of butterflies have been recorded in the Andaman groups of islands (Ferrari 1951; Khatri 1989; Soubadra Devy *et al.* 1994), nothing is known about their status, distribution and ecology. While conducting a study on the animal resource base available to the Jarawas of the Andaman Islands, on May 10, 2002, at around 10:20 hrs, I came across a swarm of tawny brown butterflies crossing the busy road of Port Blair in the south-north direction. I counted about 37 individuals per minute from a vantage point. The same swarm was observed near the Netaji Stadium, Port Blair, and near the Secretariat, all proceeding towards north. Later, I identified the species as the Small Leopard *Phalanta alcippe* Cramer.

Williams (1938) had listed 66 migrant species from India. He did not list the Small Leopard in his list, although

he reported the Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha* (Drury) as a common migratory species of India and Sri Lanka. Wynter-Blyth (1957) had also not included the Small Leopard among migratory species.

Apparently, the onset of the south-west monsoon in the southern Andamans could be the main reason for the initiation of this migratory behaviour, on May 11-12, 2002. Even during a drizzle, this species moved with ease in small aggregations comprising two or three individuals flying at a height of 1-2 m above the ground level.

The Small Leopard is a locally common butterfly mostly found in the forested tracts of the southern Andamans. During my stay in September-October 2001 and April-May 2002 the population of the Small Leopard butterfly in the Jarawa Reserve was fairly good and evenly distributed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, for giving me an opportunity to

study the fauna of the Andamans. I am also thankful to Dr. C. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, ZSI, Kozhikode and Dr. T.K. Pal, Scientist-E and leader of the Expedition, for facilities and encouragement.

REFERENCES

- FERRAR, M.L. (1951): On the butterflies of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *J. Bombay Nat Hist. Soc.* 47(3): 470-491.
KHATRI, T.C. (1989): A revised list of butterflies (Rhopalocera: Lepidoptera) from Bay islands. *J. Andaman Sci. Assoc.* 5(1): 57-61.
SOUBADRA DEVY, M., T. GANESH & P. DAVIDAR (1994): Butterfly

- distribution on the Andaman Islands. *J. Andaman Sci. Assoc.* 10(1 & 2): 50-56.
WILLIAMS, C.B. (1938): The migration of Butterflies in India. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 40: 439-457.
WYNTER-BLYTH, M.A. (1957): Butterflies of the Indian Region. Bombay Natural History Society. Mumbai.

